

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9148

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3689

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP PO

SUBJ: ACTIVITY OF COUNT OF BARCELONA IN PORTUGAL

REF: MEMCON DATED MAY 27, 1974

1. TWO EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT COUNT OF BARCELONA, HEAD OF BORBON DYNASTY AND FATHER OF SPAIN'S FUTURE KING, JUAN CARLOS, HAS BEEN PREPARING POLITICAL STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED ON EVEN OF ANNUAL OBSERVANCE OF HIS SAINT'S DAY JUNE 24. LEADING FIGURE IN SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTY, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM ESTORIL, SAID THAT FINAL TOUCHES HAVE BEEN PUT ON STATEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN SEEN AND REVIEWED BY LARGEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES IN SPANISH OPPOSITION. STATEMENT REPORTEDLY HAS SHARP ANTI-FRANCO THRUST AND ARGUES FOR STEPPED UP LIBERALIZATION OF SPANISH POLITICAL LIFE.

2. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER KNOWLEDGEABLE SPANISH POLITICIAN, DINNER HAS BEEN PLANNED IN LISBON RESTAURANT JUNE 22 FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF SPANISH OPPOSITION TO WHOM COUNT OF BARCELONA WOULD READ PROPOSED STATEMENT. MEETING AT
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RESTAURANT WAS APPARENTLY CALCULATED, HE SAID, TO GIVE

IMPRESSION THAT COUNT WAS RESPONDING TO SEEMINGLY
POPULAR SPANISH APPEAL TO SUPPORT LIBERALIZATION OF
PRESENT REGIME.

3. INITIATIVE FOR COUNT OF BARCELONA'S POLITICAL
STATEMENT REPORTEDLY STEMMED FROM ENCOURAGEMENT WHICH HE HAD RE-
CEIVED BOTH FROM SPANISH OPPOSITION LEADERS AND FROM NEW
PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. CAPTAINS IN ARMED FORCES
MOVEMENT WERE SAID TO HAVE CALLED ON COUNT TO ASSURE HIM THAT
HE WOULD BE
TREATED AS HONORED GUEST IN PORTUGAL AND TO HAVE
EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION FOR COUNT'S POST-APRIL 25
PUBLIC STATEMENT SUPPORTING RECENT POLITICAL CHANGES
(THIS STATEMENT WAS REPORTEDLY PRINTED IN
PORTUGUESE PRESS BUT HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN SPANISH
PRESS).

4. COUNT OF BARCELONA ARRIVED AT PALMA DE MALLORCA JUNE 10
TO TAKE PART IN REGATTA WHERE HIS SON, JUAN CARLOS, IS
COMPETING. ACCORDING TO ONE SPANISH POLITICIAN, THIS WAS
GOOD SIGN AS IT INDICATED THAT COUNT OF BARCELONA
MIGHT HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT TONE OF
PROPOSED STATEMENT WHICH COULD POSSIBLY DAMAGE HIS SON'S
STATUS AS FUTURE KING.

5. MONTHLY ISSUES OF GENTLEMEN CONFISCATED JUNE 7
CONTAINS ARTICLE BY RAFAEL CALVO SERER, IDENTIFIED AS
"KISSINGER OF ESTORIL". IN IT SERER SAID "PRINCE JUAN
CARLOS WILL ENCOUNTER SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN CARRYING
OUT A PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION WHICH COULD BE ACHIEVED
BY COUNT OF BARCELONA". SERER ALSO SAID THAT "PRINCE
HAS SWORN ALLEGIANCE TO SOME PRINCIPLES WHICH AMOUNT TO
A MORAL MORTGAGE WITH WHICH HIS FATHER IS NOT BURDENED.
IF DEMOCRACY IS DESIRED IN SPAIN, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY
TO RE-ESTABLISH THE DYNASTIC ORDER IN ORDER THAT HIS
FATHER, THE KING, COULD START THE DEMOCRATIC
PROCESS." AT END OF INTERVIEW SERER SAID THAT "A
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC IS MORE VIABLE THAN A MONARCHY WHICH
IS A DISGUISE FOR AN AUTHORITARIAN REGIME".

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6. COMMENT: AFTER SEEING HIS SON AT PALMA DE MALLORCA,
DON JUAN COULD EMBARRASS PRINCE IF HE PERSISTS IN REPORTED
PLANS TO ISSUE SHARPLY WORDED ANTI-FRANCO AND PRO-LIBERALIZATION
STATEMENT. THIS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY INOPPORTUNE WERE IT TO APPEAR
THAT DON JUAN WAS ACTING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF NEW POLITICAL
SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. HIS NEW STATUS AS "HONORED GUEST"
WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT HE MIGHT BE TREATED IN AN EVEN
MORE FRIENDLY FASHION BY PRESENT PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT THAN

WAS TRUE WITH PREVIOUS REGIME. CALVO SERER'S
LATEST STATEMENTS WOULD SEEM TO ACCOUNT FOR THE
CONFISCATION OF GENTLEMEN; HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR
CONTROVERSY GENERATED BY THE APPEARANCE OF THE COUNT OF
BARCELONA IN PARIS LAST JANUARY (SEE A-70). WE WOULD APPRECIATE
RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE TO
EMBASSY LISBON ON COUNT'S ACTIVITIES.
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